

City of Falls Church Police Department 2015 Annual Report



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The Falls Church Public Safety Team's proudly presents the Annual Report for 2015. This year was highlighted with extraordinary public safety services provided by the men and women of the Falls Church Police & Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Office.

This report will highlight statically data, special events, investigative cases and accomplishments from the Department's Operations, Services and Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Divisions. Annually in this report, we gladly recognize the collective effort of all City departments including our school system; as we work in partnership to ensure a strong commitment to the priority of public safety service. We proudly serve as partners in the criminal justice system with the Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney Office under the leadership of Ms. Theo Stamos and her team of Commonwealth's Attorneys, as well as, the Falls Church Juvenile Probation & Parole. We again, recognize with distinction, Loudoun County Commonwealth Attorney James Ploughman and his Deputy Assistant Commonwealth Nicole Witmann and Assistant Commonwealth Ms. Alex Rueda for their nearly five years of tireless and dedicated service in a special prosecution and conviction for the City of Falls Church.

This year posed a wide range of challenges with the ongoing strife within the profession of law enforcement to the violent active shooter and terrorist incidents throughout the nation and worldwide. Events on the worldwide and national stage have a direct effect on our community and the services we provide. I am very proud of the collective response from the citizens of Falls Church and all of the professionals that serve this community to learn from current events, evolve in our practices and proactively act to make Falls Church a safe and welcoming community.

Throughout the year 2015, we had many complex service demands and special events which resulted in safe and positive outcomes because of the professionalism of the officers and administrative staff of the Police Department. We are fortunate to depend on the generous compliment of Sheriff Deputies in the Falls Church lead by Sheriff Steve Bittle and a number of Falls Church Volunteer Firefighters lead by Fire Chief Kevin Henry. Additionally, we are privileged to work in concert with our mutual aid partners in neighboring jurisdictions throughout the region and state to include: Fairfax County Police, Arlington County Police & Fire, the Arlington County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. We enjoy and support a regional approach to public safety and proudly participate in the continued efforts of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force.

Each and every Officer, the Parking Enforcement Officer, the Fire Marshal, the Crossing Guards, the Animal Control Officer, the Communications Dispatchers, and the Administrative staff are firmly committed to the safety and concerns of all citizens in Falls Church.

We are grateful for the brave citizens, particularly our City's children, who continually demonstrated tremendous strength, leadership and support of our efforts to keep the community safe.

We proudly serve the City.

Mary Gavin

Police

The Falls Church Police Department is committed to providing and maintaining the highest quality public safety service to the community at large and to its neighboring partners through prevention, intervention, investigations and enforcement in all facets of the criminal justice and emergency management systems.

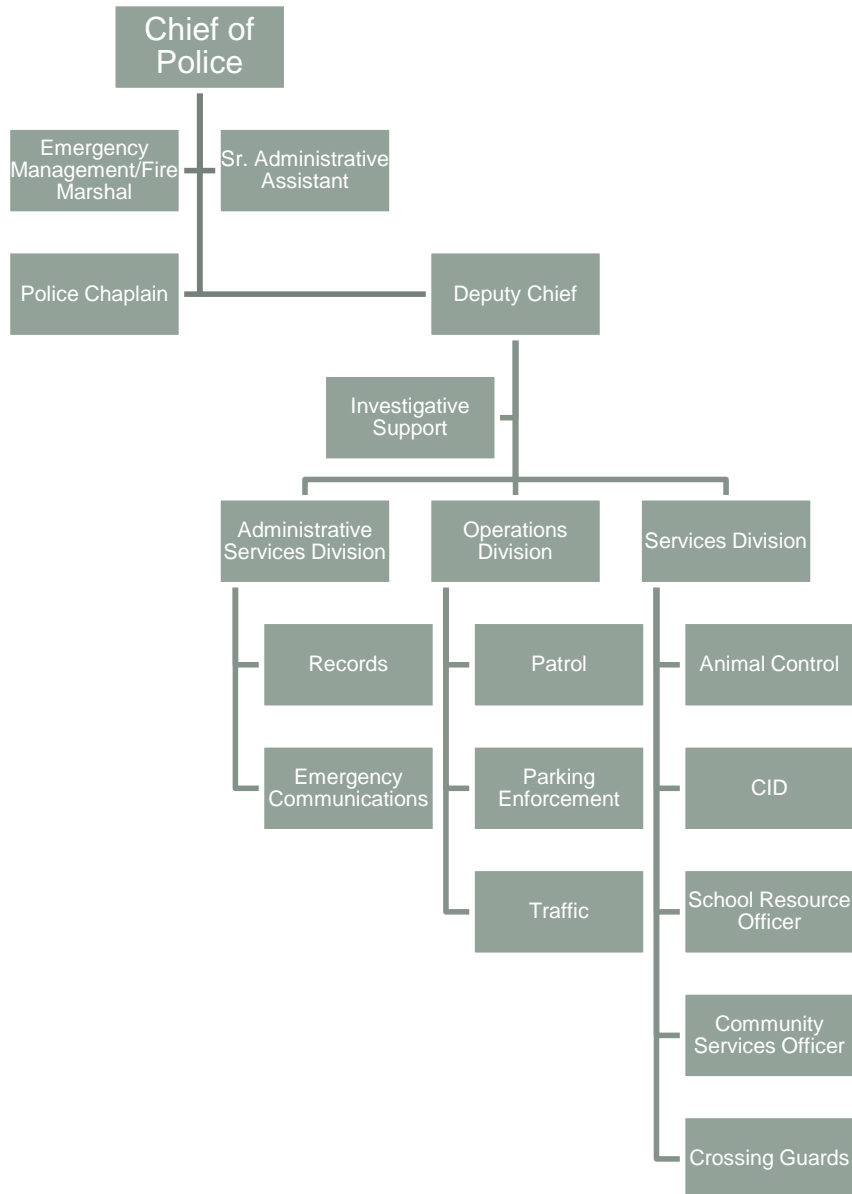
Fire Marshal

The mission of the Fire Marshal is life safety and property preservation through the enforcement of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The City Fire Marshal is designated as the Fire Official for the City.

Core Values

Commitment
Communication
Teamwork

Innovation
Learning
Empowerment



Demographics:

2015 City Population: 13,500

Land area: 2.2 square miles

Total CFC employees: 46.5

Total current sworn officers: 32

Calls for Service - 28,640

Part I Offenses - 312

Part II Offenses - 298

Arrests - 839

Adult - 816

Juvenile - 23

DUI/DWI Arrests - 78

Traffic Accidents Reportable - 197

Total Traffic Tickets - 2,330

Parking Tickets - 3,267

Offenses	2014	2015	Change	% Change
Assault	68	65	-3	-4.4%
Aggravated Assault	8	7	-1	-12.5%
Auto Theft	11	13	2	18.2%
Burglary	4	8	4	100%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	9	9	0	0%
Destruction of Property	110	108	-2	-1.8%
Drunkenness	82	60	-22	-27.5%
Drug/Narcotics Violations	32	45	13	40.6%
Embezzlement	3	1	-2	-.66%
Fraud Offenses	40	46	6	15%
Homicide/Murder	1	0	-1	-100%
Kidnapping/Abduction	1	7	6	6%
Larceny	218	212	-6	-2.8%
Rape	3	3	0	0%
Robbery	8	11	3	37.5%
Sex Offenses	12	5	-7	-58.3%

The chart above list offense data for major categories of crime.

- New Hires
 - Holly Gable, ECT
 - Justin Kirby, ECT
- Promotions
 - Deputy Chief Rick Campbell
 - Sergeant Markus Bristol
 - Sergeant Rick Judd
- Retirements
 - Sergeant James Houtchens



Division Commander Award

Sergeant Markus Bristol and Officer Joe Karlinsey

On August 8, 2015, at approximately 3am, Sergeant Markus Bristol and Officer Joe Karlinsey responded to a residence where a subject had broken into the home through the basement window and then barricaded himself in the homeowner's master bedroom. Upon arriving on the scene, both officers encountered a shaken and scared homeowner and his son outside of the residence. Sergeant Bristol quickly and calmly gathered vital information as to the layout of the house and the whereabouts of the suspect. Both officers entered the residence and made their way to the master bedroom where they could hear the suspect punching the door. Sergeant Bristol, as heard on audio, announced himself and gave the suspect calm, but authoritative commands to back away from the door and lie on the ground. Once it appeared the suspect had complied, Officer Karlinsey opened the bedroom door and challenged the suspect with his taser while still giving clear and concise instructions. Because of their actions and training, these officers were able to de-escalate the situation and take the suspect into custody without incident.

Officer Kevin Hedden

On August 15, 2015, at approximately 2:45am, Officer Hedden conducted a traffic stop in the 1100-block of West Broad Street for a defective equipment violation. During the initial encounter, Officer Hedden detected the odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle. Because of his keen investigatory skills and the detection of Driving Under the Influence cues, Officer Hedden determined that the suspect was under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Officer Hedden conducted a series of standardized field sobriety demonstrations which led to the arrest of the driver for Driving While Intoxicated.

This single traffic stop developed into a comprehensive investigation which resulted in the recovery marijuana, heroin, multiple un-prescribed controlled medication, \$822.00 in cash, and a Glock 9mm handgun.

Mother Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award

In May 2015, PFC Alex Cruzvergara and Officer Joe Karlinsey were honored by the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) and the Northern Virginia Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) at a ceremony in Tysons Corner.



Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) Award

In December 2015, Officer Kevin Hedden was recognized by WRAP for his commitment to preventing Drunk Driving and under age drinking.

Police Unity Tour

In May 2015, Chief Mary Gavin, Lieutenant Joe Carter, and Community Service Officer James Brooks participated in the Police Unity Tour in remembrance of all those who have given the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty.



Life Saving Award

On Thursday, August 6, 2015, at about 10:15am, Falls Church Police Dispatch received a call from a pedestrian who stated that a grey Mercedes Benz had crashed into a parked car on Hillwood Ave. The caller stated that it appeared that the driver had some type of seizure, possibly cardiac arrest, prior to the crash. Lieutenant Joe Carter, Commander of Operations, was the first to arrive on the scene. Lieutenant Carter, unable to detect any vital signs for the driver of the vehicle, removed him from the car and retrieved his AED (Automated External Defibrillator) from his cruiser. He attached the AED's pads to the victim's chest. The instrument indicated that an electric shock was not warranted and directed him to begin chest compressions. About two minutes later, Medics from Falls Church/Arlington Station 106 arrived on scene. They instructed Lieutenant Carter to continue chest compressions until the end of the CPR cycle (approximately another 90 seconds), giving them time to connect a bag valve mask and the Medic's AED. At that point, the Medics relieved Lieutenant Carter and transported the patient to the Arlington Hospital Emergency Room. Captain Anthony Battaglini, Station Commander for Falls Church/Arlington Fire Station 106, stated that "chest compressions performed early in a cardiac incident are one of the main factors contributing to a successful resuscitation" and that "Lieutenant Carter's actions were instrumental in reviving the patient."

As a result of Lieutenant Carter's quick response, training, and available equipment, the victim was successfully resuscitated and survived this cardiac event. On Tuesday, November 10, 2015, Lieutenant Carter was recognized for his actions at the Department's All-Hands meeting and was presented the Department's Gold Cross Life Saving Award.

"Team Stop Arm"

The City of Falls Church Police Department in partnership with the City Schools, Falls Church School Board and community members were awarded a Community Policing Award in March 2015 from American Society of Industrial Security (ASIS). The collective stakeholders were identified as "Team Stop Arm." The individuals on the team included:

Major Rick Campbell, Lieutenant Pilar Uelmen, Mrs. Stephanie Oppenheimer, Mr. Kieran Sharpe, Ms. Nancy Hendrickson, Mr. Charles Turner

Team Stop Arm's community policing program built a comprehensive Photo Red Light Enforcement Program within the City's School Bus Transportation System. This program was built on administrative excellence by our Police Commanders coupled with strong advocacy from community members and operational excellence from our School Bus Transportation Division. This program is building a culture of safety in the geographic footprint of the City of Falls Church and in time will change the patterns of motorists in one of the notoriously heavy rush hour pattern in the Washington region. This is a significant milestone program for the region, Commonwealth, and the City as it ensures safety of our City's children in their commute to and from school.



The Operations Patrol Division is the most visible of the Department's Divisions, as it is responsible for responding to calls for service in the City 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The officers provide proactive patrol and respond to complaints from citizens, investigate motor vehicle accidents and perform traffic enforcement duties. Of the 21 officers in the Operations Division, one Officer has been assigned to the Traffic Unit and one civilian employee is assigned to the Parking Enforcement Officer position. The purpose of the Traffic Unit is to dedicate directed patrols for traffic related issues, which is one of the most frequent complaints and concerns in the City. The second most frequent complaint and/or concern in the City is parking related issues. The Parking Enforcement Officer investigates and enforces the City ordinances regarding parking regulations and this year, the PEO has proactively sought changes in the ordinance and policies to resolve some of the problematic areas in the residential and commercial areas. The Parking Enforcement Officer position is currently a part-time employee, but his impact in change and proactive enforcement and problem solving has been essential to the community.

Together, with all Divisions of the Police Department and all Departments within the City government, the Operations Division works collaboratively in responding to reported crime and quality of life issues that affects the City and its citizenry. The Operations Division fulfills this public safety responsibility by embracing the principles of the government service defined in the City's vision to maintain a safe and vibrant community.

The Services Division is comprised of Criminal Investigations, School Resources, Community Services and Animal Control. The Services Division also coordinates and oversees all training for both sworn and civilian employees, maintains 23 police vehicles and trailers, and oversees the evidence/property function of the department which handles approximately 1,000 pieces of property annually.

Criminal Investigation Unit

The Criminal Investigations Unit conducts investigations on all major crimes ranging from homicides and robberies to thefts and financial crimes. The detectives not only investigate criminal matters, but they are also responsible for processing crime scenes. Annually, the Criminal Investigations Unit investigates between 250 and 300 cases. Additionally, the Falls Church Police Department has one detective assigned to the S.A.R.s (Suspicious Activity Report) Task Force, which is part of the Federal Government's HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas) group.

School Resource Officer

The School Resource Officer (SRO) is the liaison between the Police Department and George Mason High School/Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. The SRO is responsible for Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention on the campuses of George Mason High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. The SRO also provides student, staff and parent education on such topics as Drugs and Alcohol, Driver Safety, Internet Safety, Gangs, and Crime Prevention. The SRO and the School Division Safety and Security Supervisor work together fingerprinting, photographing and issuing employee badges to all Falls Church City Public School employees, as well as, maintaining and upgrading the school system's video surveillance system.

Community Services Officer

The Community Services Officer (CSO) is responsible for providing home and business security surveys, coordinates the School's Crossing Guards, provides educational programs for the City's elementary schools, as well as the private/parochial schools, and conducts numerous training programs for our citizens and the business community. The CSO also reviews blueprints and building plans for construction projects in the City and makes recommendations based on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). The CSO also coordinates National and State Traffic Safety campaigns and assists in managing Traffic Safety Grant programs. Additionally, the CSO provides information for the Weekly Crime report and other press releases.

Animal Control Unit

The Animal Control Unit is responsible for the investigation of all animal related complaints. These complaints include, but are not limited to: Animal Bites, Animal Cruelty Complaints, Injured Animal (Companion Animals and Wildlife) Complaints, Animal Noise Complaints, Animal Quarantines, Impoundment of Companion and Wild Animals, Dog Licensing and any other call for service concerning animals. The Animal Control Unit receives, on average, 20 phone calls a day from citizens asking for advice or assistance. The Animal Control Officer is also a state certified Police Emergency Communications Technician and a trained Parking Enforcement Officer.

Criminal Investigation Unit

In calendar year 2015, the Criminal Investigations Unit was assigned 317 cases, up slightly from 303 in 2014. The total number of Part I offenses, which include serious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft, saw little change from 2014. There was a fairly significant increase in the number of Robberies involving a Firearm from 3 in 2014 to 7 in 2015. Cases involving Fraud and Identity Theft remained fairly constant. The overall case closure rate for the Criminal Investigations Unit was about 87% for 2015, as compared to 86% in 2014. The City of Falls Church Police Department's case closure rate continues to be higher than the national and regional averages, which range from 68% to 77%.

Here are some highlights of just a couple of cases handled by the City of Falls Church Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit in 2015:

Cigarette Trafficking - On June 25, 2015, City of Falls Church Detectives assigned to the HIDTA/NVFI Task Force and assisted by other local and federal agencies, conducted an investigation into a cigarette trafficking operation. In these types of operations, the trafficker purchases cigarettes from Virginia wholesalers prior to the tax stamps being applied to the cigarettes. The cigarettes are then transported to other states with higher tax stamp rates and sold at a considerable profit to the trafficker. According to court documents, between March 2104 and June 2015, an owner of several small businesses in the Fredericksburg area purchased at least \$13.8 million in cigarettes from area wholesale stores for the express purpose of re-selling those same cigarettes to individuals trafficking the cigarettes for eventual resale in other states. A total of five Federal search warrants were executed simultaneously and a total of 128 cases full of cigarettes, as well as, computers were seized as evidence in the investigation. The trafficker in this case agreed to plea to the case in court and received a 60 month sentence in prison, a three year term of supervised release, and forfeit \$1.21 million as proceeds of his criminal offense.

Commercial Burglary - On February 16, 2015, the Falls Church Police Department responded to the Eden Center for two reported commercial burglary that had occurred earlier in the evening. Two separate businesses were entered by the breaking of the business front windows. Machine equipment, cell phones and U.S. Currency were removed from the businesses. Arriving police units and detectives were able to recover evidence from the multiple crime scenes. Blood recovered from one of the scenes was used to positively identify a suspect in the case. Investigative work followed and the suspect that was developed from the information had been located in another state. Warrants were obtained for the offenses committed and the suspect was arrested and brought back to Virginia for trial.

Commonwealth vs. Gardner

On Saturday, June 18, 2011, the Department received a call in reference to a sexual assault of a 10 year old girl at a slumber party. Over the next few days, two additional victims were identified. Ultimately, the suspect in the case, Michael A. Gardner, was charged with two counts of Aggravated Sexual Battery and one count of Object Sexual Penetration, all felony charges. In 2012, following a protracted court trial that introduced both physical and testimonial evidence, Gardner was convicted and sentenced to 22 years in prison. A number of appeals were filed and in June 2014, the case was overturned by the Virginia Supreme Court. In July 2014, Gardner was re-indicted on two of the original three charges. In September 2014, another victim came forward, a niece of Gardner's, resulting in two additional counts of Aggravated Sexual Battery.

In January 2015, information was received by the Department that Gardner had discussed a murder for hire plot while in prison in 2013. Because the murder for hire plot involved not only the three minor victims in the case, but the detective and the Commonwealth's Attorneys prosecuting the case, Federal and State agencies were brought in to lead this aspect of the investigation. Virginia State Police were able to determine through their investigation that Gardner did, in fact, discuss a murder for hire plot with someone he thought could carry out the plan. In the end, the State Police had no evidence that Gardner had taken any additional steps to further the act. Therefore, no charges were brought in this case.

On September 21, 2015, the trial for the case involving Gardner's niece began. On the third day of testimony by prosecution witnesses, Gardner requested that the court recess so that he could confer with his attorneys. By the end of the day, Gardner entered into a plea agreement with the Commonwealth's Attorneys. Gardner pled guilty to all four charges in both cases. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison, with 20 years suspended.

This was a high profile case that involved a trusted, politically active, community leader. It consumed considerable Police and City resources and took a toll on the entire community. After more than four years of winding through the criminal justice system, justice has been served for four courageous girls.

Proclamation for Crossing Guard Janet Haines

Janet Haines, a Crossing Guard for the City, celebrated her 90th birthday on May 2nd. Mayor Dave Tarter honored her by presenting her with a Proclamation for her outstanding contribution to the City. Janet Haines has been a crossing guard near the St. James School for more than 48 years. During her tenure, she has safely escorted three generations of students to and from school. She says that her dedication to her job comes from, "the smiles on everyone's faces when I wave to people," and she offers a white glove salutation to any commuter along her path. In addition to her daily crossing guard duties, Ms. Haines voluntarily clears her area of any trash and debris to ensure the health and safety of the students. The City of Falls Church and the Police Department is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring individual protecting our students.



Officer Wellness

Detective MPO Jennifer "Missy" Elliott coordinated with the Code 9 Project team to host a premier showing of the film "Code 9: Officer Needs Assistance" on December 9, 2015 at the historic State Theater. The Code 9 Project is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide education, support, and viable self-help tools to all public civil servants and their families for the purpose of managing, reducing, and eventually eliminating compressive stress effects, such as PTSD and suicide. This was a private showing for all of the public safety leaders in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area intended to help facilitate open dialog in the area of mental health and public safety personnel. The event was well attended by Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, and Command Staff members from local, State and Federal agencies.

School Resource Officer

Some of the classes and activities organized and presented by our School Resource Officer during 2015 were:

Classes presented at the High School level:

- 8th Grade Physical Science - Velocity & Speed
- Forensic Chemistry - Effects of drugs and alcohol
- US Government - 4th & 5th Amendments
- Driver's Education (10th Grade)
- Internet Safety (8th Grade)
- Drugs & Alcohol (9th Grade)

Classes presented at the Middle School level:

- Risky Behavior/Gangs/Crime (7th Grade)
- Character Education

All grades, meet with each classroom once during the school year.

Community Services Officer

During 2015, the Community Services Officer:

- Conducted numerous Police Department tours to various groups and organizations.
- Coordinated a collection point for the National Drug Take Back Initiative which is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
- Coordinated numerous traffic safety campaigns including Bike To Work (May) and Sober RIDE (Year round impaired driving enforcement).
- Continued the Bicycle & Pedestrian Awareness Week in conjunction with the Department's Traffic Unit targeting enforcement in shared use traffic areas.
- Participated in the Arlington/Falls Church TRIAD which is an organization that builds partnerships between senior citizens and law enforcement to enhance safety and improve quality of life.

Animal Control Unit

The Animal Control Officer responded to 107 calls related to companion animals in 2015. Animal Bite cases were up from 17 in 2014 to 21 in 2015. In all of those cases the animals were required to be quarantined. While there were no rabies exposure cases reported in 2014, Falls Church did have 2 rabies exposure cases in 2015. In both of those cases, everyone involved tested negative for rabies virus. Additionally, the Animal Control Officer responded to 108 wildlife complaints in 2015, an increase of 10% over 2014.

Some notable statistics:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Calls for Service	205	236
Assist Police Emergency Communications	14	16
Assisted other Jurisdictions	4	4
Animal Cruelty Complaints	17	12
Animal Quarantines	9	21
Animal Bite Complaints	17	21
Wildlife Complaints	98	108
Written Complaints	35	32
Contacted while off duty at home by PD	78	103

Training is a critical function of the Services Division. It keeps Department personnel current with changing trends and technology. During 2015, Police Department personnel received over 4,200 hours of training. This training was in the form of Mandatory In-Service Retraining, Legal Updates, Firearms Training, First Aid, CPR, OSHA mandated training, and Roll Call training that covers a vast array of topics and subject areas.



Special Weapons and Tactical (SWAT) Team

The Falls Church SWAT Team is a specialized unit of highly trained police officers deployed to handle violent and dangerous calls for service that exceed the expertise and/or tactical abilities and equipment of the first responders on patrol. The Team is grounded in basic common sense approaches that behold the preservation of life as their top priority in each and every training session and deployment mission. The SWAT Team members are comprised of officers from every shift/unit within the Department, providing an around the clock tactical capability 24 hours/7 days a week. The SWAT Team members are all actively involved in the National Capital Region's SWAT Association (NCRSA).

This Team provides the Police Department with a credible, effective and capable tactical response within the City's borders and assists mutual aid partners in the region. The Team trains monthly on situations ranging from barricaded gunmen, officer and citizen rescue, high risk entry, first aid skills, and response to numerous high-risk violence incidents. Every member attends an annual week long training event, where skills are honed and teamwork is developed in various disciplines. Each officer is also specially trained in a number of areas of expertise, ranging from precision marksman, less-than lethal force, breaching, command/control of volatile suspects and scenes, and a host of others disciplines.

In November 2015, a member from the SWAT Team, Alex Cruzvergara, who is in charge of maintaining and deploying the teams Electronic Equipment, assisted the George Mason High School Robotic Club in their yearly Robot Convention. Officer Cruzvergara explained and demonstrated how the various Robots used by the Falls Church Police SWAT Team can be utilized to size up dangerous situations, communicate, and negotiate an entire house which in turn limits the potential dangers officers would potentially face if this was not an available option.

Administrative Services oversees the Records and Communications Units and manages the Department's information and technology systems. The Records Unit is responsible for managing and organizing traffic, criminal incident, and arrest documentation within the Records Management System, and provides clients with police reports, record checks for employment, and accident reports. The Records Unit processes and/or retrieves approximately 10,000 written reports, tickets and other similar information annually. Administrative Services is also responsible for managing the Department's CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch), records management and technology systems, supervising communications personnel, managing the Photo Enforcement System and Accreditation Program, and coordinating the Department's Hiring/Recruiting program, including succession planning.

Emergency Communications Unit

The Falls Church Police Emergency Communications Unit (ECU) is the E-911 call transfer point for the City. The ECU answers the Police Department's emergency and non-emergency phones 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, dispatches complaints requiring police officer response, and they are the after-hours contact point for most every department in the City. The dispatchers also provide after-hours security for City Hall and all other City buildings, including the schools, by monitoring the City's fire/burglary alarm system. The dispatchers monitor the Emergency Public Safety Radio System for the Capitol Region, Weather Radio, Amber Alert System and all other emergency notification systems.

In 2015, the Dispatch Center answered 1,406 emergency (911 transfer calls) and 48,201 non-emergency telephone calls and dispatched over 28,000 calls for service. In addition, the dispatch center maintains the criminal warrant file system handling approximately 400 warrants a year. They also conduct computer records checks for approximately 8,000 motor vehicles and 8,500 drivers annually for both the Police Department, as well as, the Falls Church Sheriff's Office.

Records Unit

The Falls Church Police Department Records Unit is a vital part of the overall operation of the organization. Even though we have a comprehensive computerized Records Management System, the Records Unit still handles tens of thousands of paper records that help document every event and activity handled by the department. The unit records and reroutes every parking ticket, traffic summons, and arrest warrant. The unit also scans vehicle impound sheets, court orders, release forms and any other form of documentation that needs to accompany a police report. The Records Unit issues parking and drive-through permits to our City residents and creates and distributes copies of records for numerous outside agencies, courts, and insurance companies.

Photo Red Light

During 2015, photo enforcement of red light violations continued at two intersections in the City; E. Broad St. and Cherry St. and W. Broad St. and W. Annandale Rd. A total of 4,446 violation notices were issued in 2015 compared to 4,750 in 2014. The total number of violations has been trending downward since the program's inception. Current enforcement statistics are available on the City website, and are updated monthly.

Crossing Guard (School Bus Stop Arm)

In 2013, the Falls Church City Public School system started a Public Safety Program aimed at enforcing the laws regarding motorists passing school buses while loading. While this is a school program, the enforcement and majority of the administration of the program will be the responsibility of the Police Department. The program started on October 28, 2013, and by year end, 62 citations were issued. In 2014, 808 citations were issued. On October 2, 2015, the program was suspended following an opinion by Virginia's Attorney General regarding enforcement under the current code. The number of citations issued in 2015 through October 2, was 546.



RAD Program

In 2015, Detective Sharee Janda spearheaded the Rape Aggressive Defense (RAD) program. This year marks the 14th annual set of classes (2 each year) hosted by the City of Falls Church Police. The participation level of this class has been at full capacity each and every time it has been offered. This popular class teaches women how to confidently defend themselves from stranger attacks on the street or in their homes. The class had a compliment of Law Enforcement instructors from throughout the region including: the George Mason University Police, Town of Vienna Police Department, Prince William County Sherriff's Office and Manassas City Police.



The enthusiasm and camaraderie built from this class is contagious, but the value is in the reviews and testimonials from participants that speak of how the techniques and confidence learned in this class have actually saved their lives. A true testimony to the camaraderie of this class is the commitment and dedication of the community outreach volunteer Kathleen Dempsey. Ms. Dempsey is a certified RAD Instructor and has partnered with the Falls Church Police Department for over 13 years and faithfully organizes, attends and video tapes every class. She brings a sense of purpose and immediate credibility to the officers and the mission of RAD and her service to this community is invaluable. Approximately 70 participants were certified in RAD in 2015. Lieutenant Joe Carter, Detective Sharee Janda, Detective Sy Symoun, Corporal Rachel Henderson, PFC James Brooks, Officer Joe Karlinsey and Fire Marshal/Emergency Manager Tom Polera are all Certified RAD Instructors for the City of Falls Church Police Department.

This year, in addition to providing two classes of their own, the Falls Church City Police RAD team once again assisted Manassas City Police, Prince William County Sherriff's Office, and Ft. Belvoir Army Base where they continued their effort of empowering women by teaching them self-defense techniques.

The Office of the Fire Marshal and the Office of Emergency Management is a combined Division of the Police Department. This Division is comprised of one (1) Captain that reports directly to the Chief of Police. In addition to those primary duties, the City Fire Marshal is a law enforcement position and serves as part of the Command Staff within the Police Department. As such, the position supports any and all emergency events that occur within the City.

In the last five years, the City's response and focus on Emergency Management has been ongoing and engaged with an Earthquake, Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, The Derecho, Super Storm Sandy and the tragedy in New Town, Connecticut, Paris, and San Bernardino, CA. The reaction to all these events places a focus on pre-planning and response within all segments of the community. As a result, many of the day to day functions described under the Office of the Fire Marshal were temporarily suspended or altered in order to meet the demands of Emergency Preparedness. In addition, with the growth of new construction projects throughout the City, the increase in population and impact of current world events, there is an on-going need for increased preparedness to all threats, natural and man-made.

Fire Marshal

The mission of the Fire Marshal is life safety and property preservation through the enforcement of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The City Fire Marshal is designated as the Fire Official for the City.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management provides the leadership, coordination and operational planning that enables the City's response to, and recovery from, the impact of natural and man-made hazards. OEM's responsibilities are local and regional in nature, and are components of the Department of Homeland Security. OEM ensures the City meets and maintains the goals of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This is accomplished by promoting emergency planning, public education and emergency training and exercises throughout the City. Emergency Management is divided into five phases; Protection, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. The City Manager serves as the Director of Emergency Management, while the City Fire Marshal Serves as the Coordinator of Emergency Management.

Fire Inspection Program

The Fire Marshal inspects and issues permits required by the Fire Code based upon occupancy type and hazardous operations. These occupancies include restaurants, places of assembly, child care facilities including home daycare, buildings with fire protection systems, pools, tents, automotive repair facilities, warehouses, industrial facilities, and any locations in the City using hazardous materials and operations, including fuel dispensing facilities. A concerted effort was made to add jewelry stores to the inspection program as a result of an explosion that occurred in early 2015; jewelry stores are not typically inspected by the Fire Marshal's Office. In addition, all City facilities are inspected by the Fire Marshal including Falls Church City Public Schools. These inspections are required on an annual basis by the Commonwealth of Virginia and NFPA. At the end of CY 2014, a part-time fire inspector (non-law enforcement) was hired to focus solely on the fire inspection program. This resulted in CY 2015 marking the first year that all inspectable commercial businesses were inspected and applicable permits issued. This also marked a 50% increase in revenue that was billed resulting from inspections and permits.

The Fire Marshal reviews all documentation by third party qualified contractors selected by building owners to verify the maintenance, testing and performance of all fire protection systems. Inspections are also conducted on commercial properties on the basis of complaint. The administration of this program includes the financial accounting, billing and collecting of revenues associated with the Fire Inspection Program. The administrative duties involved with the inspection program are still inefficient. The additions of administrative staff and/or technology improvements are areas for additional improvement.

	INSPECTIONS	PERMITS	VIOLATIONS	REVENUE
CY 2015 Falls Church FM (Hired PT Fire Inspector)	290	280	1036	\$62,290

Fire Investigations

The Fire Marshal is responsible for origin and cause investigations involving fire and explosions, as well as, environmental crimes. There were five fires reported in 2015 and one explosion that occurred at the Eden Center which resulted in 3 significant injuries. This event was a major incident that drew regional media attention. The Fire Marshal included the ATF in the investigation which required many staff hours. Total fire loss for the City for CY 2015 is estimated over \$1,700,000.

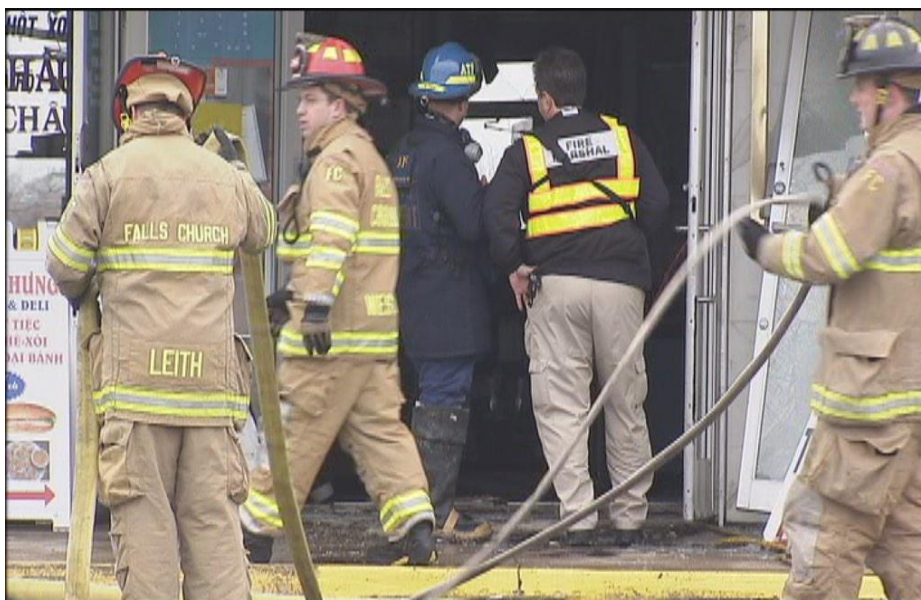
Plans Review, Inter-departmental and Inter-jurisdictional Assistance

The Fire Marshal assists other City departments including Development Services and Public Works in the review of plans for all new and/or existing structures in the City. Plans review continues to dramatically increase the workload for this position. Projects include continued oversight of the Harris Teeter and Tinner Hill projects. Additional time was spent continually reviewing the Mason Row, Kensington and now the Washington and Broad Street projects. Reviews include assisting Recreation and Parks in the preparation for Special Events.

The Fire Marshal also serves on the City Health and Safety Inspection Taskforce. Additional committees include the Northern Virginia Joint Committee on Fire and Arson Investigation and the Council of Governments - Fire Prevention Group.

Accomplishments:

- Continues to meet or exceeds all state regulatory requirements for the Office of the Fire Marshal, including advance certifications in fire origin and cause.
- Review and regulate special events including All Night Grad Party at GMHS and the fireworks display on the 4th of July.
- Selected to the International Association of Chief of Police, Arson and Explosives Committee.



Programs administered by OEM include the management of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), review and updates of the following: Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Regional Hazardous Mitigation Plan, NIMSCAST Compliance Reporting and the Local Capability Assessment for Readiness (LCAR) report. Additional management of communication programs under OEM includes WebEOC, Alert Falls Church, Satellite Phones, Video Tele-Conferencing (VTC) and the administration of the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) cards. Collateral duties for the Coordinator of Emergency Management include attending meetings with the Northern Virginia Regional Emergency Managers. OEM also serves as a point of contact for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Council of Governments Emergency Managers sub-committee.

Accomplishments:

- Conducted two table top exercises to simulate an active shooter response in our middle school as well as St. James School. The first focus on the first 12 minutes of the response and was focus on law enforcement capabilities. The second focus on the next 72 hours and the gaps for reunification involving schools. These exercises involved the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- Continued quarterly "Lunch & Learn" training sessions for City Employees related to safety and emergency preparedness.
- Received Local Emergency Performance Grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. This is a grant that must now be managed by the Emergency Manager/Fire Marshal.
- Review the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to meet compliance with Federal and State requirements.
- Review the Hazard Mitigation Plan as part of a regional effort to include 20 jurisdictions.
- Continued to raise the bar on NIMS training city-wide to meet Federal and State compliance. Due to the limited number of city employees (approx 200), there is a need to continue training in order to respond to the need of a population fast approaching 15,000.
- Completed NIMSCAST reporting indicating response capabilities as required.
- Completed Local Capability Assessment for Readiness (LCAR) report to the Commonwealth of Virginia, as required.
- Implemented the new Everbridge notification system for Alert Falls Church. This system will continue to be expanded for all facets of notification for city emergencies.
- Participated in Virginia Statewide Tornado and Earthquake Drills.
- Conducted Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Workshop for City Leadership
- Rewrite and update the City Emergency Operation Plan (EOP). This is conducted every 4 years and is a major undertaking.
- Implemented new program called "Praise and Preparedness" that focuses on the needs and services that can be provided between Government and the Faith-Based Community.
- Attended Train-the-Trainer certification (V450) through VDEM as an Incident Command/NIMS Instructor.
- Acquired new computer through regional grant for the "EM Net" computer. By having this system in place now, it will provide future notification capabilities.
- Delivered Run-Hide-Fight training to groups outside of City personnel including NGO's.
- Served as planning team member for the Regional Chiefs of Police to coordinate a table-top exercise for a Complex Coordinated Regional Attack.

